



# NEWS RELEASE

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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***Former Fargo Real Estate Developer Sentenced for***

***Mail Fraud and False Statements on Tax Returns***

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**FARGO** - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that **Richard Louis Mische** of Fargo, North Dakota, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on charges of mail fraud and making false statements on tax returns.

**Mische**, 62, pleaded guilty and was sentenced today for embezzling money from ten real estate partnerships he managed. **Mische** was the managing partner responsible for the financial details of the apartment complexes under the partnerships. Financial reports mailed to the partners and the K-1 tax reports submitted on each partnership, which had been prepared by **Mische**, contained fraudulent financial information. **Mische** neglected to declare the embezzled income on his income tax returns filed with the Internal Revenue Service. The fraud occurred from January of 1997 through January of 2002 in the District of North Dakota.

Judge Erickson sentenced **Mische** to 24 months' imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release. **Mische** was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,064,426.90 to the partnerships, and to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations.

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“The prosecution of individuals who intentionally conceal income and evade taxes is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system,” stated IRS Special Agent Sallie T. Cooper, “This case emphasizes that all income, even if obtained illegally, is taxable and is required to be reported on your tax returns.”

Assistant United States Attorney Janice M. Morley prosecuted the case.

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